

Forestry and Recreation Committee

April 21, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Nye, Tom Schultz, Dave Solin, and George Bornemann

Members Absent: Richard Olsen and Brennan Henricks

Others Present: Steve Jackson, Tom Lazars, Erik Rantala, Robin Stowe, Ted Ave'lallemant, Dave Tlusty, Terry Poltrock, Dave Peterson, Kelly and Joe Novak, Harlan and Pat Girtz, Chris Held, and Gust Ullman

Location: Conference Room, Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo

1. Call to Order – Chairman Nye called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Solin to excuse Richard Olsen for medical reasons. All ayes. Motion carried.
2. Minutes – A motion was made by Bornemann, seconded by Solin, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2011, meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discuss Request by Eagle Scout for Project at Veteran's Memorial Park – Joe Novak explained to the committee that he would like to build a community fire ring and seating area at Veteran's Memorial Park. It would be 19' x 19' on a concrete slab and handicap accessible. The community fire ring and seating area would be located between the shelters and behind the volleyball net. The scouts are planning to have a work day on May 14 to complete the project. Novak has been working with PSI Concrete, Four Seasons Landscaping and County Materials. The total cost for the project is \$3,000, but due to donated and discounted materials Novak only needs \$1,500 in funds for the project and the DAV donated \$500. The balance Novak needs to collect is \$1,000, which he is sure he can do; but he is requesting that Langlade County provide a fail safe (or back fund) the project. Schultz requested that Heuss review the plans to make sure that it does meet handicap accessibility guidelines. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Bornemann to approve fail safe funding of \$1,000 from recreation fund, if necessary, for

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community fire ring and seating area at Veteran's Memorial Park. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Consider Approval for Cabin Project at Veteran's Memorial Park – Lazars informed the committee that the Elcho School Board approved the collaborative project and the class is already filled and had to be capped. The class would begin to build the cabin in September, 2011 and it would be worked on throughout the class year and moved to Veteran's Memorial Park in May, 2012. Lazars received quotes from Builders Service and Kramer's Building Supply for materials, which would cost \$7,178; concrete would be \$1,400, and contingency of approximately \$1,400. The total project should be under \$10,000. Lazars would like approval from the committee to go forward with the sleeping cabin project and to forward to the finance committee for funding from the recreation fund. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approve the collaborative project with the Elcho School District to build a sleeping cabin for Veteran's Memorial Park and to forward to the finance committee. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. Discuss ATV Route Request on Highway H by Vilas-Deerbrook Riders – Jackson stated that the Vilas-Deerbrook Riders ATV Club would like to request an ATV route on Highway H to Held's Bar. The Town of Vilas has approved all town roads to be used as ATV routes. The current ATV route travels from Jane Spur Road to McCloud Road to Lloyd Creek Road, and the club would like the route extended south two miles down Hwy. H to Held's Bar. Currently when ATV'ers travel the current route, they have to turn around as the Town of Peck does not allow ATVs on their town roads. The committee requested written documentation from the town board that they are in approval of Highway H to Held's Bar being an ATV route. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Solin to table this issue until the May meeting so the written approval from the Town of Vilas can be reviewed. All ayes. Motion carried.
6. Discuss Update Needs for GPS Equipment – Dave Tlusty informed the committee that he is requesting that the forestry department purchase a cell phone and data package for the GPS equipment. Tlusty explained that Rusch Engineering and City of Antigo currently use a cell phone and data package and hours can be saved when downloading survey information as he will not need to go back to the office and his computer to download information. Full coverage is now available for the cell phones so that is why he has not requested this update before as the coverage was spotty. Land Records would cover the cost of the maintenance of the cell phone. Motion by Solin, seconded by Schultz to approve the forestry department covering the cost of the cell phone and data package for the GPS equipment and to forward the request to the Public Property Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Discuss Retaining Rusch Engineering & Surveying for Forestry and Recreation Needs on an Annual Basis – Jackson explained that the department had contracted with Rusch Engineering for the Wolf River State Trail remediation project and culvert issues and various permit issues come up from time-to-time and they would like to avail themselves of Rusch's experience and contacts when these needs arise. Currently the Land

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Conservation Department does contract with Rusch Engineering on an as needed basis. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approve the Langlade County forestry department retaining the services of Rusch Engineering & Surveying on an annual as needed basis. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Discuss Amended Regulations of Americans with Disabilities Act – Stowe explained to the committee that Department of Justice had changed the rules regarding the use of power-driven mobility devices on trails. When the Americans with Disability Act was enacted in 1990, mobility devices were not allowed on pedestrian trails. As of March 15, 2011, the new rules regarding the use of power-driven mobility devices take effect. Under the new rules, power-driven mobility devices (PDMDs) must be allowed on trails unless they cannot be reasonably accommodated. Also, you are not allowed to inquire about the disability; but you can inquire about the need for a PDMD, if there is prior evidence that one should not be needed. The PDMDs cannot be used for hunting. The State of Wisconsin does require a permit for the use of PDMDs on State pedestrian trails. The County would not be required to make any physical modifications to trails, such as widened access, grading, or clearing. Also, if the trail is gated to prevent vehicular travel, you are not required to provide a key, just access to the trail. Reasonable accommodations must be made for PDMDs. The County may determine that PDMDs cannot be reasonably accommodated, but all of the following factors must be considered: The physical characteristics of the PDMD, the volume of pedestrian traffic on the trail, trail design and characteristics, possible safety requirements you could adopt, and substantial risk of serious harm to the environment, natural resources, or cultural resources. Stowe informed the committee that Illinois has written a policy that states the PDMDs can have no passengers and may be no wider than 45% of the trail width. The committee requested that the corporation counsel draft a permit for PDMDs for the May meeting for Langlade County trails taking into consideration no passengers and being no wider than 45% of the trail.
9. Approve Casual Employees for 2012 - Jackson requested of the committee for 2012, one seasonal casual employee position encompassing 2,950 hours, which is the number approved for 2011. Four casual employees work at Veteran's Memorial Park, one at the waysides, and one at Summit Lake Park. As well as one clerical casual employee for 590 hours. Jackson informed the committee that we were requesting the same number of casual employees; but if the budget is frozen at 2011 levels for 2012, some casual employees may not be funded at that time. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Schultz to approve hiring one seasonal casual employee position for 2,950 hours for the 2012 summer season and one clerical casual employee for 590 hours. All ayes. Motion carried.
10. Update on Storm Damage – Jackson informed the committee that approximately 250 acres were heavily damaged in the Township of Parrish on April 10 by the storm that passed through the area. The forestry staff is working to set up four timber sales (3,000-4,000 cords) in that area to be sold at the Spring sale, which would need to be completed by November, 2011. The Parrish ATV trail in that area will be closed due to the amount of logging traffic.

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11. DNR Liaison Report – Ave'lallemant informed the committee that he was part of an incident management team on April 16 that assisted with the tornado clean up in the Merrill area. They worked with 800-900 volunteers assigned to geographic areas.

Tom Schultz was excused at 2:50 p.m.

12. Review Payment of Paid Bills - A motion was made by Bornemann, seconded by Solin, to approve the paid Forestry and Recreation Department bills. All ayes. Motion carried.
13. Review Budget Summary Report - Jackson reviewed with the committee the budget summary report of the forestry department revenues and expenditures through March 31, 2011. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Solin, to accept the budget summary. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Comp Time Balances - Jackson reviewed the comp time balances of all the Forestry and Recreation Department employees with the committee. Motion by Bornemann, seconded by Solin to accept the comp time balances. All ayes. Motion carried.
15. Set Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is the Spring timber sale opening scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2011, at 8:30 a.m., in the Clover Room, Multi-purpose Building, Fairgrounds, Antigo.
16. Other Matters – Jackson stated that they are not planning to open the ATV trails for the season until possibly May 14 due to the wet conditions. It was also discussed not allowing wood permits in Parrish in the storm damage area due to dangerous conditions.
17. Adjournment - A motion was made by Solin, seconded by Bornemann, to adjourn at 2:55 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Poltrock
Recording Secretary